



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

### Testimony

#### The Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Date February 19, 2013

**Raised S.B. No. 857: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF STEP THERAPY FOR AND OFF-LABEL PRESCRIBING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

**Raised S.B. No. 858: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES.**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, committee co-chairs, Senator Kelly and Representative Sampson, ranking members, and Members of the Committee, the Insurance Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony relating to S.B. 857 and S.B. 858.

The Insurance Department recognizes and understands the intent of these and similar bills are to help consumers with specific medical issues. But unless these mandates are already included in the health insurer's or HMO's standard offerings, there could be a premium rate increase impact. The existing individual and group health insurance mandates (enacted to date) add approximately 15 to 20% to the individual and group health insurance premiums in the state. The Department is concerned that additional mandates will drive these percentages higher.

The Department is particularly concerned with increased premium rates due to state mandates at the same time as new federal rating rules and other requirements under the Affordable Care Act take effect January 1, 2014.

In order to lessen "sticker shock" to purchasers of individual and small group health insurance, the Department respectfully urges the Committee to reject all new health mandates this session.